

IN THE DRAWINGS

Applicant has provided replacement drawing sheets including Figs. 38 and 39 for the corresponding previously filed drawing sheets. The replacement sheet amends Figs. 38 and 39 by inserting the label "Prior Art" for each figure.

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the official action dated May 2, 2008. Claims 1-16 were pending in the application. In the official action, claims 1-16 were rejected. In this Amendment, claims 2, 3, 10, and 11 have been canceled, claims 1, 4-7, 9, and 12-15 have been amended, and new claims 17-41 have been added. Claims 1, 4-9, and 12-41 thus remain for consideration.

Applicant submits that claims 1, 4-9, and 12-41 are in condition for allowance and requests withdrawal of the rejections in light of the following remarks.

Drawings

The objection to the drawings is noted and corrected in accordance with the replacement drawing sheets accompanying this Amendment.

Applicant has provided replacement drawing sheets including Figs. 38 and 39 for the corresponding previously filed drawing sheets. The replacement sheets amend Figs. 38 and 39 by inserting the label "Prior Art" for each figure.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the drawings are now in compliance with all formality requirements, and requests that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

§112 Rejections

Claims 6, 7, 14, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

Applicant has amended claims 6, 7, 14, and 15 and submits that the amendments render claims 6, 7, 14, and 15 compliant with §112. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejections under §112 be withdrawn.

§102 and §103 Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 7-10, 15, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Berhan (US Patent No. 6,487,145).

Claims 6 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Berhan.

The Examiner indicated that claims 3-5 and 11-13 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under §112 and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 2, 3, 10, and 11 have been canceled, thereby rendering their rejections moot.

Claim 1 has been rewritten to include all of the limitations of claims 2 and 3 (claim 1 being the base claim of claim 3 and claim 2 intervening between claims 1 and 3). Accordingly, claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 9 has been rewritten to include all of the limitations of claims 10 and 11 (claim 9 being the base claim of claim 11 and claim 10 intervening between claims 9 and 11). Accordingly, claim 9 is in condition for allowance.

Further, since dependent claims inherit the limitations of their respective base claims, Applicant believes that dependent claims 4-8 and 12-16 are patentable for at least the same reasons as their respective independent claims.

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited. If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to telephone the undersigned at (908) 654-5000.

Application No.: 10/509,838

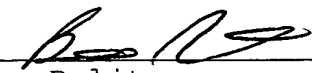
Docket No.: SONYJP 3.3-993

The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 12-1095.

The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Dated: October 7, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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